

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-22.(canceled)

23.(original) A transfer device for transferring a patient from a first support surface to a second support surface placed alongside the first support surface, the device comprising a pair of elongated, laterally spaced apart tubes of material coupled to each other, each tube being configured to be placed longitudinally under the patient on the first support surface and extending along at least a portion of the patient's body, each tube being made of sheet of material having an inside surface of relatively low friction and an outside surface of relatively high friction, each tube being flattened when placed under a patient to have an upper run of the relatively low friction surface facing downwardly to engage a lower run of the relatively low friction surface facing upwardly such that the upper and lower runs can slide smoothly transversely as the patient is moved from the first support surface to the second support surface, the tubes being configured to be positioned on opposite sides of the first support surface such that one of the tubes provides movement of the patient to and from one side of the first support surface and such that other of the tubes provides movement of the patient to and from the other side of the first support surface.

24.(original) The transfer device of claim 23, further including an intermediate portion coupled to the tubes, the intermediate portion being configured to be positioned under a mattress disposed on the first support surface such that one of the tubes extends on one side of the first support surface and such that the other of the tubes extends on the other side of the first support surface.

25.(original) The transfer device of claim 24, further including a fastener coupled to the intermediate portion for releasably securing the intermediate portion to the first support surface.

26.(original) The transfer device of claim 24, further including a fastener coupled to the intermediate portion for releasably securing the intermediate portion to the mattress supported on the first support surface.

27.(original) The transfer device of claim 24 formed from a piece of fabric including an intermediate portion and opposite side portions, the opposite side portions being folded over and joined along their longitudinal edges to the intermediate portion to form a pair of tubes on the opposite sides of the intermediate portion.

28.(original) The transfer device of claim 27, wherein the upwardly facing surface of the fabric is coated with low friction material so that the two oppositely disposed tubes include an inside surface of relatively low friction material.

29.(original) The transfer device of claim 27, wherein the downwardly facing surface of the fabric is coated with high friction material so that the two oppositely disposed tubes include an outside surface of relatively high friction material.

30.(original) The transfer device of claim 27, wherein each tube comprises a sheet of material formed as a continuous loop having an inner surface configured to slide over itself as the sheet of material is rotated and an outer surface configured to abut the patient when the sheet of material is located between the patient and the first and second support surfaces.

31.(original) The transfer device of claim 23, wherein each tube includes a plurality of spaced apart handles coupled thereto and located on the outer surface thereof to facilitate a caregiver with moving the sheet of material over itself in a direction toward the second support surface to transfer the patient from the first support surface to the second support surface.

32.(original) A transfer device for moving a patient from a first support surface to a second support surface placed alongside the first support surface, the device comprising, at each side of the first support surface, an upper run of material having a downwardly facing low friction surface in engagement with a lower run of material having an upwardly facing low friction surface, the low friction surfaces of the upper and lower runs in engagement with each other supporting the patient on the first support surface for movement toward the second support surface, the transfer device including an intermediate portion coupling the upper and lower runs of material on the opposite sides of the first support surface.

33.(original) A transfer device for transferring a patient from a first support surface to a second support surface placed alongside the first support surface, the device comprising:

an intermediate member, and

a pair of elongated tubes coupled to the intermediate member on opposite sides thereof, each tube including a sheet of material formed as a continuous loop having an inner surface configured to slide over itself as the continuous loop sheet of material is rotated and an outer surface configured to abut the patient when the sheet of material is located between the patient and the support surfaces.

34.(currently amended) The transfer device of ~~claim 32~~ claim 33, further including a plurality of spaced apart handles coupled to each tube and located on the outer surface thereof to facilitate a caregiver with moving the sheet of material over itself in a direction

toward the second support surface to transfer the patient from the first support surface to the second support surface.

35-41.(canceled)